

The MENTAL HEALTH LEGAL ADVISORS COMMITTEE presents:

REPRESENTING CHILDREN AND PARENTS WITH MENTAL ILLNESS WEST OF WORCESTER

Friday, November 3, 2006

Western New England College School of Law, Springfield

8:00 **REGISTRATION AND BREAKFAST**

8:30 **WELCOME**

8:45 **COMPREHENSIVE MENTAL HEALTH CARE FOR CHILDREN WITH MENTAL ILLNESS**

Dr. Swanson's session will offer clinical expertise and analysis in differentiating mental health diagnoses, understanding psychiatric medications, and obtaining in-home treatment for children with mental health needs.

John Swanson, M.D., Consulting Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist, Department of Mental Health, Northampton

10:30 **REPRESENTING PARENTS WITH MENTAL ILLNESS IN COURT**

This panel of experts will discuss the impact of mental illness on custody issues in court including the prevalence of mental illness in families, the benefits of services for parents, and the effect of treatment compliance with psychiatric medications on symptoms that most affect parenting skills.

Kathleen Biebel, Ph.D., Research Assistant Professor, Department of Psychiatry, University of Massachusetts Medical School, Worcester

Kamlyn Haynes, M.D., Child, Adolescent, and Adult Psychiatrist, University of Massachusetts Medical School, Worcester

Dorothy Meyer Storrow, J.D., Solo Practitioner, Greenfield, Massachusetts. Vice Chair, Committee for Public Counsel Services

11:30 **THE ROLE OF CHILD DEVELOPMENT, PSYCHOLOGICAL RESEARCH, AND VALUES IN
REPRESENTING YOUTH IN CHILD PROTECTION ACTIONS**

Leading clinical psychologist will draw attention to the uneasy alliance of the mental health professional and attorney and then focus on determining what constitutes a child's interest, the risks and resilience of early childhood, and the use and misuse of the attachment theory in advocacy and legal decision-making.

William Halikias, Psy.D., Clinical & Forensic Psychologist, Brattleboro, Vermont

1:00 **LUNCH (AVAILABLE ON YOUR OWN AT CAFETERIA WITH OPPORTUNITY TO SPEAK WITH DR. HALIKIAS)**

2:00 **MENTAL HEALTH SYSTEMS AND SERVICES IN WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS**

Key players in the state's mental health systems will present strategies for unraveling mental health systems and accessing mental health services for children and adults in Western Massachusetts.

Peggy Fiddler, LICSW, Director of Project Management, Child and Adolescent Services, Department of Mental Health, Western MA Area

Susan Fortin, LICSW, Director of Program Management, Mental Health Services, Department of Mental Health, Western MA Area

Candice Lafleur, Mental Health Specialist, Department of Social Services, Western Regional Office

Michael Goodwin, Ed.D., Family Networks Director, KEY, Western Massachusetts

David Roulston, J.D., Solo Practitioner, Greenfield

3:30 **DIVERSE ROGERS PRACTICE IN JUVENILE AND PROBATE COURTS**

Experienced judges and attorneys will discuss the nature of differing practices in mental health litigation in Western Massachusetts' Juvenile and Probate Courts to clarify and reconcile differences to improve representation.

Honorable James G. Collins, Circuit Justice, Hampden Division, Juvenile Court Department

Lisa van Gordon d'Errico, J.D., Solo Practitioner, Northampton

Honorable Lillian Miranda, First Justice, Franklin-Hampshire Division, Juvenile Court Department

Andrew Rome, J.D., Department of Social Services, Western Regional Office

Honorable David G. Sacks, Associate Justice, Hampden Division, Probate and Family Court Department